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15c

AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST AND ONLY INDEPENDENT SOCCER NEWSPAPER

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October 20, 1967.

Best in Australia

Red Tulip

CONTINENTAL
CHOCOLATES

APIA favored to reach Aust. Cup final

— By LOU GAUTIER —

The Australia Cup quarterfinals having produced no upsets, this weekend's semifinals will cater exclusively for Sydney and Melbourne clubs.

Juventus and Melbourne Hungaria meet in the Western Group semifinal at Melbourne's Olympic Park on Sunday, while at Wentworth Park the Eastern Group semifinal will oppose Pan Hellenic to APIA, the Cup holders.

In the quarterfinals last week, Pan Hellenic beat Newcastle Austral 2-1, APIA defeated Lake Macquarie 5-0, Juventus Melbourne eliminated Juventus Adelaide 2-1 and Melbourne Hungaria downed Croatia Melbourne 3-0.

Three of this year's semifinalists have been through it all before.

APIA are in the Cup semis for the fourth time in four years.

Juventus Melbourne and Melbourne Hungaria were semifinalists only once before; Juventus in 1962, when they lost 1-2 to Yugal, and Hungaria last year when APIA beat them 3-0.

Pan Hellenic's semifinal appearance is their first ever: in 1963 they were knocked out in the first round by Prague.

APIA and Melbourne Hungaria are favored to reach the final on Sunday.

APIA, however, are much firmer favorites than Melbourne-HSC to win their semifinal.

An APIA-Melbourne Hungaria final would be the first Australia Cup final between winners of

the NSW and Victorian league competitions.

Last week's matches attracted very disappointing crowds in Melbourne.

The Juventus Melbourne v. Juventus Adelaide clash on Saturday was only watched by 3,300 spectators, and on Sunday a mere 3,400 saw Melbourne-HSC v. Croatia.

The Sydney double-header was seen by 6,750 people — a reasonable attendance considering the limited appeal of the Newcastle teams.

Australia Cup crowds this season have been bigger in Sydney than in Melbourne, justifying our earlier criticism of allocating this year's final to Melbourne.

Our Melbourne correspondent, Bob Low, reports that soccer interest is waning in Victoria.

Bob Low tips a crowd of less than 6,000 spectators if the final next Sunday week does not include Juventus Melbourne.

However, he does not expect the final to draw more than 8,000 people even if Juventus make it.

Without undue optimism we can safely predict a much bigger crowd if the final were played in Sydney as the presence of APIA or Pan Hellenic, Sydney's top drawcards, would ensure a bumper gate.

It's not too late for the Australian Federation to switch the venue of the final, but knowing the incredible red tape even the simplest of decisions requires, we don't hold out too much hope for common sense and good economics to prevail.

"The climax to the most wonderful year of my life."

These were Johnny Giacometti's first words after winning the SOCCER WORLD-LA FIAMMA Players' Contest at Wentworth Park last Sunday.

A few moments earlier he had won the Alitalia return trip for two to Bangkok when his name was drawn out of the hat by ASF president, Sir William Walkley.

Unlucky contestants in the draw were Worthington of Hellas Adelaide and Pyrgolios of South Melbourne Hellas whose names did not come out though they too had polled more than the quota of 500 votes necessary to qualify for the prize.

Giacometti's win was a popular and deserved one as he polled 1,936 votes, three times more than his interstate challengers.

This has been a momentous year for the 31-year-old blond APIA international.

In April he took out naturalisation papers and five weeks later he gained his first Australian "cap" against Scotland.

He topped the Sydney goalscoring list for the third consecutive year, and

now to top it all, the Alitalia Bangkok trip is his.

A radiant Giacometti thanked SOCCER WORLD, LA FIAMMA, Alitalia, and all the readers whose votes made his Oriental holiday possible.

Johnny and his wife plan to take their trip at Christmas.

"The Alitalia trip to Bangkok is sweet consolation for missing out on the Asian tour," Giacometti said.

"Thanks to your contest, I'll see Asia after all — and with my wife!"

Giacometti also spared a thought for the luckless George Nuttall, whose enforced lay-off through injury contributed to his win in the Players' Popularity Contest.

"George is without a doubt the unluckiest player in Australia," Giacometti admitted.

"I'm certain he would have retained his lead without his injury."

"His name, and not mine would then have entered the hat and, who knows, he might have been as lucky as I was and won the marvellous Alitalia trip to Bangkok."

A former Italian international centre-forward, 29-year-old NICOLE, may join APIA next season.

Club officials are confident of signing the former Juventus Turin star early in the new year.

Nicole made his international debut at the age of 20, against France in Paris in 1958 when he scored the two goals that enabled Italy to draw 2-2.

Nicole, if he does join APIA, will be one of the biggest catches ever by an Australian club.



Contest winners, Sophia Michopoulos and Johnny Giacometti, pose with Alitalia General Manager, Dr. Miceli-Picardi, at Wentworth Park last Sunday after receiving their Alitalia flight tickets to Rome and Bangkok.

ALITALIA PRIZE FOR SOPHIA IN BIG CONTEST

What started as a lark finally won a young Greek woman a return trip to Europe.

She is Mrs. Sophia Michopoulos, mother of two young children, Andrew, aged two and Peter, four months.

"I started to enter coupons in the SOCCER WORLD-LA FIAMMA contest as an amusement," she said this week.

"Then, when I realised that I was doing well, I kept it up."

"I did all the forecasting myself though my husband did help at times."

Her husband is Nick Michopoulos who operates a successful aluminum manufacturing business.

Under his abbreviated name of Micos, he is also a well known referee.

Nick has been in Australia for 17 years while his wife for seven years.

They met in Sydney and married three years ago.

Mrs. Michopoulos was presented

with her prize — an open return ticket to Italy — by Alitalia's Australasian General Manager, Dr. G. Miceli-Picardi, at last Sunday's Australia Cup quarterfinals at Wentworth Park.

"I am not sure when I'll make the trip, but probably some time early next year," she said.

Husband Nick and the two children will go along — as paying customers of Alitalia.

After visiting Italy they intend to stay for a while in their native Greece.

Mrs. Michopoulos said she was "thrilled to bits."

"It's mine," she kept repeating, clutching the ticket in her hands.

"I want to thank Alitalia, SOCCER WORLD and LA FIAMMA for the wonderful prize," she said.

"I hope their efforts to popularise the game are appreciated."

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CONTEST WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

The first SOCCER WORLD-LA FIAMMA Contest, sponsored by Alitalia, was an unqualified success.

During the 32 weeks of the Contest more than 12,000 entries were processed by both newspapers.

This week we publish the final results for Readers' Contest Sections 12 and 13, the final points score and the final voting in the Players' Popularity Poll.

READERS' CONTEST

SECTION 12 RESULTS

60 points: Y. Degli Esposti, Leichhardt; M. Giuliani, Carlton (Vic); C. Laws, Kings Cross; A. Lovrich, Lewisham; S. Michopoulos, Pagewood.

SECTION 13 RESULTS

60 points: S. Michopoulos, Pagewood; Y. Degli Esposti, Leichhardt; C. Laws, Kings Cross.

FINAL POINTS SCORE

850 points: S. Michopoulos, Pagewood.

820 points: C. Laws, Kings Cross.

800 points: Y. Degli Esposti, Leichhardt.

770 points: A. Lovrich, Lewisham.

740 points: L. Crema, Bossley Park.

730 points: V. Crismale, Adelaide (SA).

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Applications stating qualifications, experience and remuneration required to be addressed by November 15, 1967 to the Secretary, R. Miller, 59 Raglan Street, Miranda (NSW).

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SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

SLAVIA PRAGUE, the crack Czechoslovakian team, arrives in Australia on December 5. They will play a combined Prague-Pan Hellenic XI in Sydney on December 6. They are also tentatively scheduled to meet Slavia Melbourne on December 8, South Australia in Adelaide on December 10 and Western Australia in Perth on the 12th. They fly home on December 14.

LES SCHAUMAN returned to Australia by ship with his fiancee last weekend. During the stop-over in Melbourne, the former Budapest and Croatia forward watched the Melbourne-Croatia Australia Cup quarterfinal at Olympic Park. His ship berthed in Sydney yesterday. Schauman plans to settle here permanently.

620 points: R. Buonanova, Five Dock.

650 points: F. Abbruzzo, Dee Why.

640 points: P. Tsonis, Nth. Adelaide.

630 points: V. Horacek, Darlinghurst; A. Vellozzi, Wollongong.

620 points: G. Baracetti, Redfern.

600 points: G. D'Angelo, Maroubra; R. Femia, Neutral Bay; S. Garofano, Terigal; M. Giuliani, Carlton (Vic).

More than 200 people attended SUTHERLAND'S Annual Presentation Dinner at the Sutherland Shire Soccer Club, Miranda, last Friday night. Gordon Shrubsole won the first grade "best and fairest" award and was presented with a wall clock. The second grade award went to Bob McAneny, who received a ray lamp.

One of Czechoslovakia's best-known coaches, DR. JOSEF BUNJA, joins Prague early in December. Bunja, 46, specialises in individual training. He will assist Joe Venglos with Prague's first team squad. Dr. Bunja is currently on the staff of Slovan Bratislava. This is another first to Prague as they will be the only team in Sydney with two fully qualified coaches.

The Australian NATIONAL TEAM's farewell dinner will be held at the St. George-Budapest Club at Mortdale on Friday, October 27.

Following his remarkable displays in recent weeks, JOHN WATKISS is certain to play in the forward line of the Australian team in Saigon.

GARY KING, the Prague goalkeeper, gets married on October 28.

St. George-Budapest players will officially wind up the season on Friday when they are given a dinner party at their SOCCER HOUSE, Mortdale. Each player will receive an individually engraved plaque to commemorate the 1967 season — the club's most successful.

DON McLEOD, coach of the NSW schoolboys team this year, says that NSW will have to plan something out of the box if it expects to compete successfully against South Australia, in spite of the wealth of talent here. Don reports that the Adelaide High Schools team trained at least twice per week for seven weeks for the last interstate series, and played 10 preparatory matches.

Contrary to rumors, APIA president, EDDIE PROVERA, intends to stand for re-election at the club's Annual General Meeting later this year.

Several members of past, present and future management committees were watching last week's AUSTRALIA CUP quarterfinals together, in apparent peace, from the glass encased "Paddy Gray balcony" of Wentworth Park.

Pan Hellenic's coach, BILL VROLYKS, hopes to be involved in double duties on

Sunday, October 29. Bill will be in Melbourne attending the National Coaching Symposium in his capacity as secretary of the NSW Coaches, and has hopes that his club will be there to play in the Australia Cup final at Olympic Park.

Joe Venglos and Andy Sagi will conduct Prague's SUMMER COACHING CLINIC for boys between the ages of 14 and 17 from November 6 until December 6. Lads interested in signing up for the course should write to Prague secretary, George Warner, 212 New South Head Road, Edgecliff, or ring 31-5150.

The APIA Junior Soccer Club is once again the premier club in the 1967 Association competition. From the 14 teams entered in the competition, six were successful as premiers and grand finalists, and three teams were runners-up. The APIA under-13 "Hurricanes" also took out the "Champions of Champions" award for 1967.

Hakoah president KARL RODNY this week denied an afternoon newspaper report that they were negotiating with Eric Schwarz to take over the coaching of the club.

Former first grade referee BILL COOK, now president of West Ryde Rovers club, chaired a cabaret dinner at West Ryde recently to honor the club's first life member, LESTER WAUD. Mr. and Mrs. Waud, and their son Alan, started the club with two teams. Of its 14 teams in 1967, five won premierships, three were runners-up, and three were placed third, giving the club its best season ever.

The crack Czechoslovakian international, PAVEL MOLNAR (Inter Bratislava), has been cleared to join Prague. Molnar, one of Czechoslovakia's most capped players, is due in Sydney before Christmas.

MANLY, promoted to First Division next season, have already started training in preparation for their rise... even before this season has ended. This week the players started an eight-week weight-training program at a Narrabeen gymnasium under two well-known physical education experts, one of whom is Reg Marsh, a representative with the Australian wrestling team at the last two Olympics.

Sydney fans will not see a LIVE TELECAST of the Australia Cup final from Melbourne next Sunday week. The ABC, which planned the telecast, have now called it off. An ABC Sports Division spokesman declined to comment when asked to explain the cancellation this week.

WESTERN SUBURBS defeated Victorian team ALTONA in Sydney last Saturday. Wests fielded all their "apprentice players". Newcastle winger, Peter Pont, was the star of the match.

Hakoah-Eastern Suburbs FC Ltd.

invite applications for the position of

SENIOR COACH

Please state full particulars when you write to Secretary, Harry Lakhmeyer, 46 Isaac Smith St., Kingsford, NSW, 2032. Applications close on November 15.

Applications are still open for the NSW Coaches Federation's Basic Skills COACHING COURSE starting on October 23 at the St. George-Budapest Club, 84 Victoria Avenue, Mortdale, at 7.30 p.m. Fee for the course is \$10. Applicants should ring Harry Preece at 524-7288.

The Sydney METROPOLITAN KO series will be played through to the finals on Sunday, to complete the 1967 junior season. At Seymour Shaw Park, Miranda, the under 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, and All-age games will be played. Under 9, 11, 13, 15, Ladies, and under 21s will be played at Marconi Oval, Bossley Park. Fixtures at both grounds will start at 10.45 a.m.

Letter to the Editor

No bias in Blacktown

Your correspondent, Philip Micallef, is way off the mark when alleging racial discrimination soccerwise in Blacktown.

Of the teams in the Blacktown area, there are four predominantly Polish, and three Italian.

His own club Blacktown Rainbows were for two seasons with this Association, but due to our insistence on clubs fielding, and supporting, one junior team for each senior team, affiliated this season with Granville Association.

And I now understand they are no longer with this Association.

The two biggest clubs in Blacktown, Blacktown Spartan JSC and Blacktown Spurs, both fielding 19 teams in this Association, have no discrimination, and as Mr. Micallef well knows, the son of a member of his committee plays with Spartan and represented the Nepean in the Under-16 competition.

It is unfortunate that the Blacktown Rainbows club knows no rules but their own, and are not prepared to abide by constitutions and bye laws.

Also, a member of the Rainbows committee was found to be not acceptable to this Association.

If Mr. Micallef were to get the chip off his shoulder and help co-operate all round, he would have no cause to make his charges.

The names, Smythka, Rambaldini, Bazak, Schu, etc., all leaders of various clubs, should amply dispose of any charge of racial discrimination.

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FIRST DIVISION FLASHBACK**HIGH SPIRIT SAVED CANTERBURY'S NECK**

—By LOU GAUTIER—

Canterbury's rise from rags to near riches was one of the highlights of an otherwise lacklustre 1967 Sydney season.

The Berries did not make the final play-offs; actually they "only" finished sixth, but this was immeasurably better than even their most optimistic supporters could have hoped for as late as in May this year.

At that stage, Canterbury had not won a competition match, were still without a single point, and seemed destined for instant-relegation in their comeback season to the First Division.

Canterbury's return to the elite after a three-year absence, was warmly welcomed by the soccer community.

Magical name

Canterbury's name still spells magic in Sydney soccer, and there are thousands who still recall the glamor associated with the club between 1957 and 1962.

In those golden years, the Berries, with a largely young Australian-born side, captured two Grand Finals, the Ampol Cup, the Federation Cup, as well as figuring in many Cup finals, and were runners-up in the league to Auburn, Corrimal and Prague.

After vegetating one season in Second Division, some Greek businessmen, dissatisfied with Pan Hellenic's management, joined the club, imported some quality Greek players and local recruits, and in 1966 the club finished second to Polonia before beating Corinthians to rejoin the First Division.

Revolution

During the off-season, however, they lost key players who returned to Greece, and at the start of 1967 had to rely mainly on young local products.

Their line-up in the Ampol Cup and in the first competition rounds included a majority of inexperienced teenagers.

Despite their efforts, the task of competing with more cosmopolitan, mature opponents, proved beyond them, and the team was an easy prey for one and all.

After the fifth competition round, with certain relegation staring them in the face, Canterbury's management started a quiet revolution.

Out went the checkbooks in a very successful bid to bolster the playing strength of the side.

Canterbury signed Mucillo from Cumberland, Sambrook from APIA, in part-exchange for goalie Taylor, Hoare from Croatia, and especially Hood and Ninaus from Hakoah in

the shock transfers of the season.

Hakoah's best forwards in 1966, Hood and Ninaus were expected to end their careers with the club they had served so well.

Canterbury, however, jumped at the opportunity of securing these two goalscorers forwards and their gain was definitely Hakoah's loss.

Hood and Ninaus paved the way for Canterbury's stirring revival, a comeback which bought them from the brink of despair to becoming very definite semifinal contenders within ten weeks.

Undefeated from the seventh round until four matches from the end, Canterbury, early in August, were challenging strongly for a fourth place which would have capped a fairytale climb to the top.

The strain, however, told at the finish, and when they were surprisingly beaten by Prague in a deferred floodlit midweek match, the writing was on the wall that they would not make it.

Crucial defeat

Not surprisingly, they faded somewhat after that crucial defeat, and without the services of the injured Hood, never showed the same zest and spirit in the remaining few matches.

Their tremendous string of victories, however, firmly entrenched the Berries in the top half of the ladder — a wonderful achievement in itself.

Once Canterbury reinforced themselves drastically, coach Polgar had some useful material to work with.

Apart from matchwinners Hood and Ninaus, Canterbury were well served by Rinos, who probably had his best season since coming from Argentina.

Hoare also scored some valuable goals, as did Paxinos, when the mood struck him.

The turn of their younger players, Clarke and Jamieson, may come soon, but in 1967 they were still a bit too "soft" to carry much weight and retain permanent berths in the first team.

Under-rated

Canterbury's defence was not as prominent as their deadly attack, but in midfield man, Romanos, they had one of the most useful clubmen in Sydney.

Here is another under-rated player, who deserves much more credit for Canterbury's good showing than he gets.

Sambrook, at centre-half, gained in maturity and confidence, and took his place among our top bracket of stoppers in 1967.

Mucillo, Whitehead, Galbraith, Dougan and Hardie, though above average, were

more solid than spectacular, and goalie Demopoulos alternated the best with the worst.

With a better start in 1968, Canterbury may even do better, but we doubt it, frankly, unless they bolster their team even further.

This year's sixth place must be attributed to the tremendous spirit which infected every player as they strove to move

out of the relegation zone. You could almost say that in 1967 Canterbury were so terrified of relegation, they nearly made the semifinals...

Next season if they start off reasonably well, motive and urgency may be lacking to spark off the indomitable spirit which made the Berries one of the most likeable teams of 1967.

Smalltalk

One of the finest clubmen ever to grace Sydney pitches, Salvador Isaac, is about to leave us, perhaps for good: he will sail with his wife to Europe and, after a holiday in Italy, France and Spain, return to his homeland, Argentina.

Isaac came out here in 1963 to join St. George-Budapest, together with fellow-Argentinians Fernandez, Rodriguez and Heredia. The same year Prague brought out Gauto and Badarracco and the following year Croatia's Argentinian contingent arrived: Bischoff, Rinos, Colazzo, Puig and Ledezma.

Rightly or wrongly, most if not all were higher rated than Isaac. In fact, even in his own club Isaac had a mighty battle to prove his worth. First under coach Szegedi and later under Hegyes, Isaac was far too expandable; at one stage he was almost continuously out of the first team for some 16 months.

But he played on, driving his reserve team mates on with undaunted enthusiasm and never, never once complaining to club officials about his fortunes.

One by one, the other Argentinian stars faded away — but Isaac lived to fight another day. Last year he got back into the first team and has been their most reliable player ever since despite an almost incredible number of shifts from defence to the forward line and back.

His is the most unsung success story of recent years and when the Saints won that memorable Grand Final, I couldn't think of a worthier player to share their success.

Noticed this advert in the London "Football Monthly": South Coast United FC, NSW, Australia, requires good class players (single men preferred). Transportation paid, jobs found. Apply . . . etc.

That much for youth policy.

I find it simply staggering that among the million plans and blueprints nobody has yet found room for a concrete suggestion to form a true NSW league with teams from Sydney and Newcastle taking part.

Surely it should be much more feasible than starting a National League just yet.

Following our expose of last week, ASF secretary Ian McAndrew informs us that a meeting of the Oceanic Confederation will be held in January. None too soon, one may add. McAndrew says the huge delay was due to the ASF's original plan to have FIFA president Sir Stanley Rous and/or secretary Dr. Helmut Kaser attend. Now they'll go ahead with the meeting, regardless.

There was a move, I understand, to give the Coaches' Federation a seat on the newly formed Executive Committee. Why not the referees, linesmen, ballboys or — for that matter — the sports writers as well? After all, they are all connected with soccer.

Ironical? Perhaps. But the fact remains that Australia has not played a full international against her immediate neighbors, New Zealand, since 1954.

Language difficulties, I guess.

Oh, Tempe mutantur . . . to paraphrase an ancient Latin saying. Last week we heard more "details" about the "Tempe Stadium" plans which, for some years, were completely forgotten and revived only when an excuse had to be found in a hurry to retain some tour profits.

The source of the information was quoted in the Press that a 50,000-capacity stadium could cost \$700,000. "Hm . . . Would you believe \$2m? How about \$4½m?"

I'm afraid here in Sydney we only speak of stadiums while elsewhere, like Newcastle, they are actually building one.

— MIKE RENWICK

IMPORTANT DATES**Soccer rules' long history**

The introduction of the new rule pertaining to goalkeepers, which will only be applied in Australia next year, is soccer's first new rule since 1948.

That year the International Board decided that when a goalkick was taken, the opposing players must be outside the limits of the penalty area.

Instead of two steps. If the ball is improperly thrown in, the throw-in will be repeated by a member of the opposing team.

1937: In addition to the penalty line, a semi-circular area of 9 meters radius will be marked beyond which players must stand while executing a penalty-kick.

1948: In making a goalkick, the opposing players must be outside the limits of the penalty area.

Lord helps goalkeepers

Over 300 junior team managers and coaches will be catered for in three separate coaching courses to be started in early November.

As a result of these courses an amazing total of over 4,000 schoolboys will next year receive better football instruction than would have been available had the series not been held.

Johnny Warren is organising the sessions for St. George-Budapest, and over 100 persons have nominated so far to attend Monday night demonstrations.

Granville and Gladesville-Hornsby districts have again combined, and have over 60 people already enrolled.

This will be a Monday night group also.

George Churchward, secretary of Nepean District Association, (Tel. Penrith B 3905), already has 60 junior coaches listed for the Penrith course, which will be held at weekends.

Goalkeeping will receive special attention as a topic. Usual lecturer Denes Adrigan will this time be joined by the former international and Prague star, Ron Lord.

Lord, always a popular figure in any department of the round-ball code, gave a 100 per cent effort every time he appeared on the field.

Few of the fans would realise how much time he put into the theory of goalkeeping in his playing days, in addition to the normal training stints.

Behind the effortless saving of block-busting shots and the smothering of many a dangerous move out past the 18-yard line was a definite scheme to ensure the most efficient treatment over every attack.

Ron will discuss these methods in his talk.

— Keith Gilmour

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A U S T R A L I A

MELBOURNE HSC TIPPED IN VIC. SEMIFINAL

Melbourne and Juventus, winners and runners-up in the State League championship this season respectively, clash in the Victorian semifinal of the Australia Cup on Sunday at Olympic Park.

Melbourne, lucky in the knack of producing a goal first round against Launceston United, brushed aside Croatia in the quarterfinals while Juventus were somewhat lucky to win both their games against JUST and Juventus from South Australia.

Melbourne should qualify to meet either APIA or Pan Hellenic in the final for a variety of reasons:

- They are a fitter side than Juventus.

- They have superior teamwork.

- They have goal-scoring forwards in spearhead Stoffels and striker Abonyi.

- They pace the game out well.

- They have already beaten Juventus twice this season in the league.

However Juventus, lucky as they may have been, have plenty of talent and potential.

They have the happy

PROBABLE CUP LINE-UPS

Juventus (Vic.) v. Melbourne-HSC

MCDONALD	1	SURMA
SONSINI	2	FOWLER
GENTRY	3	GREGAL
DELLA ROCCA	4	SHANKS
SCOTT	5	SCOTT
CORTI	6	CONNELLY
BARBAZZA	7	McCANN
BELL	8	ABONYI
NORMAN	9	STOFFELS
MILLAR	10	GRENVILLE
EPIFANO	11	MYERS

Referee: H. PARSONS (NSW).

Aust. Cup format must be revised

Something drastic will have to be done next year to revive the glamor once associated with the Australia Cup.

It's been plain for every one to see that interest in what was once Australia's top competition has been on the wane for several seasons.

In fact, it was the first Australia Cup, in 1962, that attracted the largest attendances.

We've never approached the crowd figures of 1962 in subsequent years, and this year's attendances in Victoria have reached an all-time low for Australia Cup matches.

Admittedly, the national series is played "out of season," when many fans are saturated with football, but the reason for the big drop in attendances, goes deeper than that.

As from next year we suggest the ASF could investigate the possibility of a straight out draw.

Another suggestion the ASF could investigate is the possibility of a straight out draw.

These innovations, we feel, would go a long way towards reviving interest in a moribund competition.

— LOU GAUTIER



This graceful dive by Newcastle Austral's goalie, Joe Lanzoni, at the feet of team-mate McKenzie prevented Pan Hellenic from adding to the score last Sunday. The Sydneysiders had to content themselves with a 2-1 victory which flattered the outclassed visitors.

Azzurri beaten

Adelaide Juventus, eliminated by their Melbourne sister club last Saturday, had their Australia Cup moment of glory when they defeated Azzurri of Perth 3-0 last Thursday week.

The local team clearly won the first half honors but they couldn't transfer their superiority to the scoreboard.

Azzurri showed that they are a solid workman-like side, but they couldn't match Juventus in speed and finesse.

Johnny Perin was the dominant figure in the early stages.

His superbly accurate passes created chances for Tom McColl, Manuel Cruz and Joe Serafini.

Juventus attacked for most of the first half and were very unlucky when McColl and Cruz hit the crossbar with Azzurri goalkeeper, Milanovich, well beaten.

As the second half began, Juventus substituted Italian newcomer, Severino Zamprogno for Joe Serafini.

Juventus opened in whirlwind fashion to score two goals in four minutes.

Zamprogno, destined to be the clown prince of the side, proved himself an opportunist by nipping from the wing to the penalty spot to score Juventus' second goal.

Azzurri, although outclassed, impressed with their fighting qualities and stamina.

Adelaide Juventus: Horvath, Mill, Baggio, West, Rusalen, Perin, Serafini, McColl, Cruz, Meneghetti, Herczeg, Zamprogno replaced Serafini (45 mins.).

Perth Azzurri: Milanovich, Lawlor, Knezovic, McIntosh, Giorgi, Reid, Miller, Hobson, Segon, Holt, Van Oosten.

Scorers: Herczeg, 47 and 49 mins., Zamprogno 87 mins.

Referee: R. Lamb (Vic.). Crowd: 5,300.

WEARY VISITORS UNLUCKY TO GET BEATEN

— From BOB LOW in Melbourne —

Victoria's top two teams, Melbourne-Hungaria, the State League champions, and runners-up Juventus, qualified for the Australia Cup semifinals in Melbourne last weekend.

Juventus-Melbourne made their best form and after several half-hearted attempts at winning back their lead finally succeeded with a goal just on the final whistle.

Hungaria caused a mild shock by beating Croatia so easily.

Many experts were tipping Croatia to reach the final of the Australia Cup as they had shown outstanding form in their recent outings.

Last week's match reports:

Juventus (Vic.) v. Juventus (SA) 2-1

A goal by Della Rocca following a last minute free kick by player-coach Corti ensured the Melbourne team's entry into the semifinals.

The Melbourne side were lucky to win.

Their Adelaide counterparts tired badly in the second half, which was not surprising after their Thursday night game with Azzurri.

Although the local team were first to hit the front with a goal by Epifano after 22 minutes, it was the South Australians who captivated the crowd with skilful and accurate play which was a delight to watch.

The Adelaide team got on level terms after 34 minutes and right up to the halftime whistle dominated the game.

On the change-over it soon became evident the Adelaide team were going to run out of steam and the fact that they had arrived only on Saturday morning in Melbourne for their quarterfinal match could perhaps be regarded as a tactical blunder.

In the closing stages of the game the home side showed



S. HERCZEG (Juventus SA)

Juventus (Vic.): McDonald, Sonsini, Gentry, Della Rocca, Scott, Corti, Barbazza, Bell, Norman, Millar, Epifano.

Juventus (SA): Horvath, Mill, Baggio, West, Rusalen, Perin, Serafini, McColl, Cruz, Meneghetti, Herczeg.

Scorers: Epifano and Della Rocca for Juventus (Vic.); Serafini for Juventus (SA).

Referee: N. Jones (NSW). Crowd: 3,250.

Melbourne HSC v. Croatia (Vic.) 3-0

Except for the first 20 minutes when Croatia were on top, this was a no-contest.

It's not that Melbourne were any great shakes but because Croatia were poor, puerile and pathetic and after they lost two first half goals they never at any time looked like making up the deficit.

Melbourne got a gift goal in the 19th minute when centre half Gunn tried a fancy clearance and came unstuck to see Stoffels pounce on the ball and find the net.

The league champions increased their lead two minutes before halftime when Abonyi scored.

In the second half Melbourne free-wheeled their way through a low standard game and centre-half Gunn repeated his earlier mistake to allow Stoffels once more to grab an easy scoring chance.

The Melbourne defence, although not impressive, had little trouble in subduing a Croatia attack which made countless errors and relied mainly on long range shots which seldom troubled Surma.

Without rising to any great heights Melbourne won this game in a canter and especially through the opportunism of centre forward Stoffels who had his best game of the season.

It was unbelievable to watch the futile attempts of Croatia and especially their attack for whom both Adlam and McMeechan looked only half fit.

The result was also a blow to Victorian soccer as many critics tipped Croatia to have the best chance of any of the Victorian qualifiers.

Melbourne-HSC: Surma; Fowler, Gregal, Shanks, Scott, Connell, McCann, Abonyi, Stoffels, Grenville, Myers.

Croatia: Young, D. McKay, Bot, Rau, Gunn, McArthur, McIntyre (Adlam), Glaser, Vojtek, J. McKay, McMeechan.

Scorers: Stoffels (2) and Abonyi for Melbourne-HSC. Referee: D. Grant (SA). Crowd: 3,400.

— Alan Crisp

C U P — 1 9 6 7

PAN HELLENIC MAY GIVE APIA A SHAKE

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Weather permitting, the Australia Cup semifinal clash between Sydney's top two drawcards, APIA and Pan Hellenic, at Wentworth Park on Sunday may draw 10,000 spectators.

Pan Hellenic's first ever Australia Cup semifinal appearance should lure thousands of Greek fans to see their heroes do battle with the Cup holders.

We would be surprised if the match didn't produce some of the most exciting atmosphere of the season.

The roar of the crowd, so conducive to cup tie football, should bring the best out of both teams and make for some stirring, do-or-die soccer.

APIA reached the semifinal more impressively than their opponents.

Ironically, APIA haven't put a foot wrong since their Grand Final reverse.

Since losing 2-5 to St. George-Budapest, they thrashed Juventus Melbourne 7-2 (shades of next Sunday week's Australia Cup final?) for the President Saragat Cup in Melbourne, then proceeded to demolish Juventus Canberra 7-1 and Lake Macquarie 5-0 in the national series.



ARCHIE BLUE (APIA)

Nineteen goals in three matches testify that APIA are anything but a spent force despite the loss of Hughes, Campana and Van Blerk.

Pan Hellenic's path to the semis was fraught with danger and they only narrowly cleared the St. George and Newcastle Austral hurdles.

Against both those opponents their defence saved the day, their forwards showing little enterprise despite dozens of chances, especially against the Novocastrians last week, whom they outclassed in every department except finishing.

However, Pan Hellenic's semifinal appearance in itself is an achievement.

By making the semis they salvaged a season which otherwise would have been disappointing.

Pan Hellenic on Sunday will be very much the underdogs but, having gone so far when few expected them even to get through the first round, they are on their day, but

they won't surrender without a desperate struggle.

To beat APIA their forwards must seize every chance that comes their way.

They can't afford to carry a "passenger" like Laraman, whose display last week must rank with the worst ever seen in Sydney.

Only a maximum team effort, with all 11 players giving heart and soul, and pulling their weight for 90 minutes, may dent APIA's armor.

Westwater's role

Pan Hellenic's defence is solid enough, even if Dounias hasn't recovered, to make APIA sweat for every goal and prevent the holders from scoring another crushing win.

Westwater's midfield promptings will again be vital, but he alone cannot pull the match out of the fire for Pan Hellenic.

Pan Hellenic's forwards hold the key to the pattern of this match.

Another effervescent display by Karyannis, in rare form last Sunday, useful link-up work by Smith and McCulloch and devastating runs down the wing by Blitz is what Pan Hellenic require to make a match of this semifinal.

If their forwards fall back into their fumbling mania and fritter away chances, APIA will win in a canter.

This depleted APIA could certainly have played better in their two Australia Cup outings, but they were never extended and were content to play at half-pace against Juventus (ACT) and Lake Macquarie.

Against Pan Hellenic loafing will be out as the players are aware of the task that awaits them.

Versatile Watkiss

The versatile John Watkiss in attack is just what APIA needed to rejuvenate the side after the morale-shattering Grand Final.

The big fellow is in superb attacking form, as though he couldn't wait to make up for the many months he cooled his heels in defence.

Watkiss seems intent on a goal rampage and he will be Pan Hellenic's public enemy No. 1 on Sunday.

With Blue and Kerklaan back in defence to fill the gaps left by Van Blerk and Hughes, APIA's forward-line is now a shade unbalanced.

Giacometti, and even the mobile McKinnon, an underrated youngster if ever there was one, can also be match-winners on their day, but

Campbell and Rivero's recent form left a lot to be desired.

The cumbersome Argentinian is no Campana, and the youngster has done nothing for weeks to justify his far too hastily acquired reputation.

Although these weaknesses may not be fatal on Sunday, if ever APIA are to flounder it could be in those two positions.

Having tasted success, Pan Hellenic will toss caution to the winds in a do-or-die bid for glory.

As for APIA, only another Australia Cup triumph will soften the Grand Final debacle.

The stage is set for a 90-minute thriller which may rock Wentworth Park on its foundations.

APIA inspire more confidence than Pan Hellenic, and should win, possibly by a two-goal margin.



APIA winger Ernie Campbell got the ball away from Lake Macquarie's Boardman in this midfield incident of last week's Australia Cup quarter-final in Sydney.

NOVOCASTRIANS WERE NEVER IN THE RACE

— By ALAN SPEERS —

Taken at face value, the final score in Pan Hellenic's 2-1 win over Newcastle Austral last Sunday at Wentworth Park would seem to suggest that the clash was typical of sudden-death Cup-tie football: tough and close fought.

In reality, however, nothing could be further from the truth.

Pan Hellenic could — indeed should — have won by at least four goals.

They were, unquestionably, the better team.

That they did not win more comfortably can be attributed to two factors.

Firstly, their centre-forward, Peter Laraman, whose goal, in extra time, knocked St. George-Budapest out of the Cup last week, had an incredible day.

Laraman improved on anything previously devised on the best way NOT to score goals.

Only he would know how he failed to find the back of the Austral net on at least three occasions when it seemed simpler to score than to miss.

Secondly, Pan Hellenic experienced some shocking luck.

Karyannis, after scoring twice in the first 22 minutes, almost had a third in the 38th minute when his header struck the crossbar.

Later, Smith hit the bar again with a scorching shot, and Laraman's follow-up effort went wide.

But, even amidst all this misfortune, the result was never really in any doubt.

Pan Hellenic's greater speed both on and off the ball, allied to Westwater's guile, always gave them the edge over their opponents, even after Lagerstrom's goal in the 69th minute.

Lagerstrom was the only forward to cause Pan Hellenic any concern, so the goal was something of a reward for hard toil.

Austral's best player was, however, wing-half Lloyd who showed glimpses of the class which won him a place in Australia's team to visit Asia.

Though playing behind a disappointing attack, Lloyd was thoughtful and industrious and showed plenty of stamina in the latter stages.

Left fullback Gordon also played well and it was his strong run which initiated Lagerstrom's goal.

Pan Hellenic were best served by Johnston, Westwater, Dounias (Hanson), Mallard; Smith, Karyannis, Laraman, McCulloch, Blitz.

Newcastle Austral: Lanzoni; Gallagher, Gordon; Doolan, McKenzie, Lloyd; Twidle, Skelly, Robbards, Lagerstrom, Adamson.

Scorers: Karyannis 17 and 22 mins., for Pan Hellenic; Lagerstrom 69 min. for Newcastle Austral.

Referee: R. Armstrong (Vic).

APIA v.
Lake Macquarie 5-0

One man does not make a team, particularly a team such as APIA, but there can be little doubt that the presence of Johnny Watkiss — in a suitable frame of mind — works wonders for the side.

No matter what his position. On Sunday at Wentworth Park, Watkiss, more than any other player, or factor, was responsible for APIA's summary dismissal of their northern opponent, Lake Macquarie, in their Australia Cup quarter-final.

Lake Macquarie are not a non, in the 73rd minute, and bad side; indeed, there were times, in the first half at least, when they looked right up to Sydney First Division standard.

Watkiss apart, APIA's greater all-round strength and mobility was too much for the northerners.

With Ackerley and Nuttall in complete charge of the flanks, without, it is noted, having to resort to over-tough tactics, most of the attacking by Lake Macquarie was down the centre, where Irwin and Hinchcliffe received short shrift from Botalico.

APIA's wingers, Campbell and McKinnon, on the other hand, had things a little easier, particularly the latter who capped a fine game with a neatly headed goal.

Lake Macquarie's most outstanding player was probably their strapping left fullback, Darrel Smith, and his display would not have gone unnoticed by Sydney talent scouts.

Left winger Dunne and industrious left-half Wright also caught the eye.

APIA: Taylor; Nuttall, Ackerley; Blue, Botalico, Kerklaan; McKinnon, Rivero, Watkiss, Giacometti, Campbell.

Lake Macquarie: Gabriel; Woods, Smith; Boardman, Ringhoff, Wright; Herbert, Schwarz, Irwin, Hinchcliffe, Dunne.

Scorers: Watkiss 3, 54 and 85 mins., Rivero 39 min., McKinnon 73 min. for APIA.

Referee: L. Straface (Vic).

Crowd: 6,750 (double-header).

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PROBABLE LINE-UPS

APIA v. Pan Hellenic

TAYLOR	1	MAGLIS
NUTTALL	2	JOHNSTON
ACKERLEY	3	HIGNETT
BLUE	4	WESTWATER
BOTTALICO	5	DOUNIAS
KERKLAAN	6	MALLARD
MCKINNON	7	VROLYKS
RIVERO	8	SMITH
WATKISS	9	KARYANNIS
GIACOMETTI	10	MCCULLOCH
CAMPBELL	11	BLITZ

Referee: D. MAITLAND (Vic).



ROUND THE WORLD

Goalie ruling altered

Goalkeepers can dribble the ball in their own penalty areas without infringing the new "four step law," the English FA decreed last week. A directive to all English clubs modified a provisional ruling of August 15 when it was stated that carrying the ball for more than four paces was not permitted. After consulting with FIFA, the FA advised referees that normal dribbling of the ball by goalkeepers both inside and out of the penalty area is permitted. But the FA's directive instructs referees to be alert to what they consider time-wasting tactics.

Oewirck in trouble

Coach Ernst Oewirck, the former great Austrian international halfback, is likely to be made the scapegoat for FK Austria Wien's rapid exit from the European Cupwinners' Cup. FK Austria were knocked out in the first round by Rumania's Steaua Bucharest. The management wants to get rid of Oewirck, but the players have signed a petition asking him to stay. Oewirck has been tagged the "Austrian Herrera" — obviously for his strict discipline and flair for publicity, not for his results.

Greece beckons Doherty

The Greek Embassy in London has passed a message on to former Chelsea coach, Tom Doherty, from top Athens club, Panathinaikos. The Greeks have made the dour Scot a very tempting offer to join them as manager for a two-year period. The English FA, despite Doherty's suspension, will not stand in the way of negotiations. The offer from Panathinaikos is rumored to be around \$3,000 a month, all expenses paid.

English FA gets tough

The English FA last week suspended 23 players for periods ranging from 14 to 21 days as part of their new get-tough policy to stamp out increasing rough play. Denis Law and Ian Ure, who were sent off for fighting recently, have not been dealt with yet. The two fiery Scots, however, are expected to cop lengthy suspensions under the long overdue "no-nonsense" policy.

A lucky escape

Three Belgian internationals had a narrow escape from death when the train in which they were travelling from Liege to Brussels, to attend a training session, derailed, killing nine passengers and injuring 89. The players were Standard Liege's Nicolay, Belgium's goalkeeper; FC Liege's national team right winger, Bare, and Standard's international halfback Sulon. The players were so shaken up that Bare and Sulon declined selection against Poland three days later.



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Nominations for the 1970 World Cup will close on December 31, 1967. So far Australia's nomination has not been received by FIFA. The qualifying groups will be drawn up in January.

• A pre-World Cup tournament on the sites of the 1970 World Cup finals will be held in Mexico next February. The Russian national team, Dukla Prague, Santos, Sweden (en route to Australia ?) and the Mexican national teams will take part.

• Franz Beckenbauer, West Germany's top player, is out of action for a month. The Munich star underwent an ankle operation last week and missed the vital match against Yugoslavia in Hamburg (3-1).

• The hero of the Greek team which thrashed Austria 4-1 in Athens in a European Championship match last week was inside-left Sideris, who scored goals in the 27th, 33rd and 63rd minutes.

• Belgium beat Morocco 3-1 in Casablanca in an International Military Championship preliminary match.

• Kader Firoud, the former Algerian-born French international fullback, has been appointed Algeria's Minister of Sport. Firoud, 44, coached French clubs Nimes and Toulouse for 10 years after retiring as a player in 1954.

• Renato Cesarin's monthly salary as Argentinian national team manager is \$1,500. His first match as Argentinian boss will be this weekend against Paraguay at Ascension.

• The top Argentinian internationals, goalie Roma, and forward Alfredo Rojas, have joined the Los Angeles Clippers in the US Professional League.

• Real Madrid suffered a crippling blow when they lost the services of their Spanish international De Felipe, out for two months with a damaged cartilage.

• Poland's surprise 4-2 victory in Brussels against Belgium has virtually put France through to the quarterfinals of the European Championship. Even if France lose at home to Belgium, their goal-average will be superior as they still have to play Luxembourg in France.

• Twenty thousand spectators at Vienna's Prater Stadium saw the Austria v. Hungary "Old Boys" match last Wednesday week. The Austrians won 5-2, reversing the score of an earlier match played a month before.

• Did you know that over the years Real Madrid supplied 95 players to the Spanish national team? Real's most capped stars are Zamora (46), Gento (41), Di Stefano (31) and Zocco (23).

• A Swiss tribunal ordered Servette Geneva to pay their former coach, Roger Vonlanthen, \$4,000 in back wages. Vonlanthen was sacked by the club without prior notice when they took on Bela Guttman for a spell last season.

• Atletico Madrid and Benfica will meet at Madrid's Stadio Metropolitano on November 1 in a testimonial match for Atletico's long-serving international Griffo.

• Until Jock Stein dropped them in the Scottish League Cup quarterfinal against Ayr United two weeks ago, Celtic's Gemmill had played 152 consecutive matches, and John Clark 157.

• International right winger Cislenko last week scored Dynamo Moscow's 1,500th goal in Soviet First Division football. Dynamo is the only Russian club to have scored that many goals since the creation of a national competition in 1947.

• The Moroccan FA two weeks ago suspended two coaches for two years, one player for life and another six for a year following a series of riotous matches at the start of the current season.

• Between January 17 and February 20, Santiago de Chile will again host a big tournament with East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Santos, Racing, Vasas and three Chilean clubs participating.

• According to AIPS (International Sports Press Federation) the most efficient press arrangements at any 1966 event, including the World Cup, were at the European Athletics Championships at Budapest.

• Karoly Soos, for the last five years coach-manager of East Germany, is likely to accept an offer from the Brazilian Flamengo after Christmas.

Rudi may go

According to an unofficial report from Budapest, national team manager Rudolf Illovszky will be replaced soon. This is rather surprising as Hungary has played 10 internationals since last year's World Cup for nine wins and one draw.

Intercontinental Cup dates

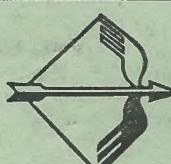
After months of argument, the dates of the Intercontinental Cup ties between Celtic and Racing Buenos Aires have been finalised. The first leg will be played in Glasgow on October 18 and the return match in Buenos Aires on November 1.

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Mitropa Cup contestants

Teams from Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia will take part in the 1967-1968 Mitropa Cup. They are FK Austria Wien, LASK, Wiener SK (Austria); Ujpest, Tatabanya, Diósgyör, Csepel (Hungary); Red Star Belgrade, Zeleznicar, Sarajevo, Vardar Skopje (Yugoslavia); Jednota Trenčín, Inter Bratislava, Baník Ostrava (Czechoslovakia) and AS Roma, Atalanta and Cagliari of Italy.

Surprises in Poland

Zaglebie, the crack Polish First Division team of the former Polonia North Side star, Joe Galezka, still haven't won a match after nine rounds this season. Zaglebie share last place with Slask and Gwardia, 11 points behind surprise leaders, Ruch. The current Polish leaders are the sensation of the season. They only have one international, forward Faber, in their ranks, and until this season always languished in the bottom half of the table.

SCOREBOARD

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Denmark v. Holland 3-2; West Germany v. Yugoslavia 3-1; East Germany v. Denmark 3-2; Belgium v. Poland 2-4; Austria v. USSR 1-0.

INTERNATIONALS: Hungary v. Rumania 6-0; Bulgaria v. USSR 1-2.

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING MATCH: Finland v. France 1-1.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP: Real Madrid v. Ajax Amsterdam (Holland) 2-1; Vasas (Hungary) v. Dunkirk (Eire) 8-1; Juventus (Italy) v. Olympiakos (Greece) 2-0.

EUROPEAN CUPWINNERS' CUP: Floriana (Malta) v. NAC Breda (Holland) 1-2; Levski Sofia (Bulgaria) v. AC Milan 1-1; Spartak Trnava (Czech.) v. Lausanne Sports (Switzerland) 2-0; Crusaders (Northern Ireland) v. Valencia (Spain) 2-4.

FAIR CITIES' CUP: Bourgogne (France) v. St. Patricks (Eire) 6-3; Ferencvaros (Hungary) v. Argesul Pitesti (Romania) 4-0; Fiorentina (Italy) v. Nice (France) 4-0; Slavia Prague (Czech.) v. FC Kolin (West Germany) 2-2.

MITROPA CUP FINAL: Ujpest (Hungary) v. Spartak Trnava (Czechoslovakia) 3-2, first leg.

BELGIUM: Bruges v. Olympique Charleroi 3-0; Daring v. Malines 1-0; Anderlecht v. Lierse 2-0; Wavre Waas v. Beeringen 1-1; Antwerp v. Beerschot 0-0; Standard Liege v. FC Liege 2-1; Sporting Charleroi v. Racing White 1-3; St. Trond v. Waregem 0-1.

FRANCE: Ajaccio v. Strasbourg 1-0; Sedan v. Angers 1-0.

3-2; Valenciennes v. Red Star 1-0; Nice v. Bordeaux 1-1; Lyon v. St. Etienne 1-1; Rennes v. Nantes 1-1; Aix v. Marseille 1-2; Lens v. Lille 1-0; Sochaux v. Metz 3-2; Rouen v. Monaco 2-1.

HOLLAND: Feyenoord v. DOS 5-0; Volendam v. Telstar 0-2; DWS v. Go Ahead 1-3; Sittardia v. ADO 2-2; Fortuna v. Twente 0-3; PSV v. Ajax 1-2; Xerxes v. NEC 2-1; GVA v. Sparta 0-1.

ITALY: Atalanta v. Inter 3-1; Bologna v. Juventus 0-0; Brescia v. Spal 0-1; Cagliari v. Napoli 1-1; AC Milan v. Mantova 3-1; AS Roma v. Fiorentina 2-1; Torino v. Sampdoria 4-2; Varese v. Vicenza 2-0.

SWITZERLAND: Bellinzona v. Servette Geneva 2-0; Bienna v. Lucerne 3-3; Chaud-de-Fonds v. Basel 3-2; Lausanne v. Granges 2-0; Sion v. Young Fellows Zurich 1-1; Young Boys Berne v. Grasshoppers Zurich 0-3; FC Zurich v. Lugano 3-0.

WEST GERMANY: Neunkirchen v. FC Kolin 2-1; Hanover 96 v. Braunschweig 1-1; Bayern München v. Moenchengladbach 3-1; Duisburg v. Schalke 04 1-1; Borussia Dortmund v. Eintracht Frankfurt 2-1; FC Nürnberg v. VfB Stuttgart 5-1; Karlsruhe v. Hamburger SV 2-1; Kaiserslautern v. Werder Bremen 2-2; Alemannia Aachen v. München 1860 3-3.

YUGOSLAVIA: Red Star v. Zagreb 5-2; Vojvodina v. Partizan 0-1; Olimpija v. Vardar 2-3; Hajduk v. Proleter 3-2; Rijeka v. OFK Belgrade 3-1; Radnicki v. Maribor 3-1; Zeljeznicar v. Velez 2-0; Dinamo Zagreb v. Sarajevo 1-0.

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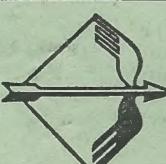
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HAKOAH, CROSS YEARN FOR FRESH SUCCESSES

Hakoah were formed in 1927, long before the rest of the State League clubs, yet only won one major competition in the past 10 years — the Dockerty Cup in 1966.

Hakoah have to dig back through their records of the pre-war and early post-war years to unearth a string of successes as First Division champions and winners of the Dockerty Cup.

As the leading club by the proverbial mile in that era, one cannot but reflect that the opposition those days was rather different to what it is today.

Since the inception of the State League in 1958 and the formidable opposition they have had to meet, the Hakoah cupboard — with the exception of that solitary Dockerty Cup win in 1966 — has been completely bare.

It would be true to say that as a State League side, they have been a struggling combination and in 1963, only a single point saved them from being relegated instead of Croatia.

Two years ago, however, Hakoah too, had a new lease of life and for the first time ever, in 1966, qualified for the Australia Cup by finishing third in the State League.

They were beaten by South Melbourne Hellas in the quarterfinals to lose the opportunity of clashing with their sister club, Hakoah from Sydney, in the semis.

Great start

This past league season, after a fantastic start in which they went undefeated for seven games without conceding a single goal, raised their hopes of being State League champions for the first time.

However, they crashed heavily in the late stages of the season and only collected a miserable five points out of 14 in their last seven games to slide down into sixth position.

With limited support, Hakoah are fortunate in having members of considerable means who frequently rally round when the club coffers run low.

The club management have always used their limited resources well in endeavouring to build a

stereotyped style which gives their opponents a fair chance of assessing their capabilities even before a game starts.

For 1968, their chance of success depends on introducing at least a few newcomers into their ranks which will not only change the pattern of their game, but also effect considerable improvement in several weak positions.

Pick of the 1967 team were: Dick Van Alphen, Alan Stenhouse and Jim Armstrong.

GEORGE CROSS

Founded 20 years after Hakoah in 1947, the overall achievements of George Cross, especially since they gained State League status, have been outstanding.

In cup competitions, you name it and George Cross have won it.

The Australia Cup, Ampol Cup and the Dockerty Cup have all adorned

The second in a series of six articles highlighting the history, achievements and chances of Melbourne's State League clubs in 1968 by

BOB LOW

the club's sideboard and showcase.

In league business, however, it has been a different matter.

Five times runners-up, they are still looking for their first championship win.

In the past two years in which they have finished ninth in 1966 and eighth this season, were far removed from winning the competition which has eluded so far.

Pioneers in bringing good class overseas players in worthwhile numbers paid them handsome dividends for several years until the team broke up for a variety of reasons after their Ampol Cup success of 1965 and they have never really recovered.

As one of the clubs who have promoted juniors for so many years, it is surprising indeed that so far they seem to have been unable to produce even one player who could be termed a first team regular from the local ranks.

Seldom adventurous, and rarely applying any surprise tactics in their play, the Hakoah of the past few years appears to produce a stereotyped style which gives their opponents a fair chance of assessing their capabilities even before a game starts.

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with the team's dismal performances, then both management and fans this season should have bled profusely after they spent well over \$20,000 on new players from the local, interstate and overseas markets.

Big spenders

To be quite frank, in my view George Cross spent a lot of their cash unwisely and indiscriminately in paying through the nose for some players who never showed anything like the form for the considerable outlay expended on them.

They never really clicked as a team although on paper they appeared to have a better than average combination.

Some of the blame can be apportioned on a few players whose selfish type of play was not conducive to sound teamwork.

However, in recent years, George Cross players have been bogged down with innumerable changes in the coaching position and it's obvious that this has led to some instability in the playing ranks.

Father time is catching up with a few of the players and it will need an all-out effort by the new president and committee to be elected soon if the club are to get back on the rails in 1968 and once again become one of the leading club sides not only in Victoria, but also in Australia.

If the hearts of the George Cross fans were nearly broken in 1966

Pick of the players in 1967 was right winger, Archie Campbell.

New Zealand is ready for tours

— From Colin H. Chin in Wellington —

With the Oceania Zone of FIFA already accepted, it is almost certain that Australia and New Zealand will meet in a play-off for the 1970 World Cup series.

The two sides will meet in New Caledonia next month as well, but there may be another meeting in Saigon even though the draw has not been released.

The two New Zealand teams selected are:

South Vietnam:

Siebert (Mt. Wellington), Nutteridge (Christchurch City); Caldwell (Northern, Dunedin), Lake (Ponsonby), Latifom (Ponsonby); McNab (Eastern Suburbs), Moyes (Huntly Thistle), France (New Brighton), Rennell (Eastern Suburbs), Gowans (Christchurch City); Legg (Eastern Suburbs), Nemeth (Hungaria), Taylor (Blockhouse Bay), Mears (Eastern Suburbs), Turner (Eden), Thomas (Hamilton), Shaw (Blockhouse Bay), Ferrier (Technical, Dunedin).

Manager: G. L. Whyte, (NZFA).

Manager: G. L. Whyte, (NZFA).

There were no major surprises when the sides were announced.

There was one outstanding omission, however.

Coach Schwanner wanted Terry Haydon, Christchurch City's star inside-forward, in his future national team.

Haydon was unavailable because of university exams which will take place while both teams are absent overseas.

NZFA chairman, Jack Cowie, when announcing the sides, emphasised that neither side was "stronger than the other — several players were unavailable for Vietnam, but available for New Caledonia."

BEograd HAVE STARTED OFF WITH WIN

— From ALLAN CRISP in Adelaide —

Second Division champions Beograd-Woodville, took a giant stride towards qualifying for the 1968 Ampol night series by defeating Elizabeth City 4-2 in the first leg of their play-off last Saturday.

Elizabeth City will have to keep Beograd scoreless and net three goals in Saturday's second leg game at Ramsay Park to win on aggregate.

Elizabeth City: King, Mason, Hearn, Delehay, Barnsley, Wright, Whincup, Robson, Parsons, Begg, Newton.

Referee: K. Candy.

Crowd: 2,470.

All-Hellas clash in Adelaide

South Melbourne Hellas will play West Adelaide Hellas in a friendly fixture at Hindmarsh on Saturday.

Always a top attraction in Adelaide, the Melbourne club were banned from this year's Australia Cup series.

Adelaide Hellas will have two former Melbourne Hellas players, Peter Tsitos and Con Solopotias, in opposition to their old club.

Solopotias will replace Roy Burdett at centre half.

Burdett entered hospital last Sunday to undergo a cartilage operation.

Adelaide Polonia will play Western Australian club Cracovia in a friendly at Croydon Park on Saturday.

Cracovia were runners-up to Azzurri this season.

The Northern Territory Federation have requested an interstate game against SA. — Alan Crisp

Qld. referee in Cup final

Queensland's top referee, Vince Dobinson, will be in charge of next Sunday week's Australia Cup final at Olympic Park, Melbourne.

Tony Boskovic was not considered as a Sydney team will be involved, and also because he flies to Saigon with the Australian team the following day.

STOP PRESS

Australia's nomination for the 1970 World Cup has just been confirmed by FIFA headquarters in Zurich.

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AUSTRALIA'S TOUR PREPARATIONS

● ABOUT THE TEAM: Puzzling omissions may prove costly

— By LOU GAUTIER —

No matter how one may try, it's just about impossible to regard the Australian team with the respect normally due to it.

Whereas the 1965 Australian squad included almost every top rate player in the country, the 1967 selectors have bypassed scores of players with firmly established reputations.

In Sydney alone, the following will be left behind: Lincoln, Hillsdon, Nuttall, Eaton, Scheinflug, Blitz, Ray, Cuss, Cliss, Hughes, Blue, Giles and Giacometti.

If you add the three Victorian rejects, Rice, Cook and McMeechan, you have the basis of an Australian team of at least equal strength to the side which will represent us next month in Asia.

Some of the omissions are puzzling and require some comment.

Nuttall, for instance, was left out because the selectors felt he still hadn't fully recovered from his cartilage operation.

"TOO OLD"

Yet Nuttall resumed playing for APIA three weeks ago, is as good as ever, and we wouldn't be surprised if he turned out to be one of APIA's key players in their quest to retain the Australia Cup.

Goalie Terry Eaton has been the most consistent custodian throughout the Sydney competition.

At a time when there is a painful shortage of class 'keepers throughout Australia, Eaton's omission, on the official grounds that he is "too old" at 26 (exactly the same age as Corry), is inexplicable.

Blitz's recent form makes him the best winger in Sydney at the moment, and with all due respect to South Australia's forwards, the Pan Hellenic forward should have been an automatic choice.

Scheinflug, too, was immobilized on the alter of age.

Considered too "old" at 29, the Prague skipper is playing as well as anytime during his distinguished career, and he would have been a valuable player on the tour because of his versatility as he can play both as half or forward.

The reason given for Ray Cuss's omission is the oddest of all.

CUSH'S CASE

One of the selectors told me with a straight face that Cuss had been overlooked because he is "prone to sun-strokes".

Obviously referring to Cuss's indisposition during the recent Sydney-Newcastle match, the selector claimed it would be risky to play the Croatia utility player in the Asian heat.

Apparently nobody bothered to inform the selectors that every one of Australia's matches on tour will be played at night, under floodlights. So much for Asia's blazing sun.

As for Giacometti, what more can he do to win the selectors' favor?

The top Sydney goalscorer three years in a row, the APIA sharpshooter may be 31 years old, but his dash and verve would have served Australia well against Asian opponents.

OUR SQUAD

Giacometti, like many others may have flopped against British teams in Australia, but the Asian opposition we will encounter is an entirely different kettle of fish.

The following Australian team, made up of players who missed out on the Asian tour, and excluding Marnoch, who voluntarily declined selection, would stand a better than even chance of beating the Australian XI that will play in Saigon: Eaton; Lincoln, Cook; Hughes, Rice, Scheinflug; Blitz, Giacometti, Blue, Cliss, McMeechan or Giles.

The 19 players I would have selected for the 1967 Asian tour would have been: Eaton, Kelly, Rice, Cook, Nuttall, Ackery, Westwater, Watkiss, Hughes, Schaefer, Scheinflug, Baartz, Warren, Cliss, Giacometti, Blitz, Blue, Vojtek and Abonyi.

A team of established players with international experience behind them.

One thing has been overlooked in all this talk about the 1970 World Cup.

Australia's immediate aim is to participate in the elimination rounds, which will be played in the next 18 months.

Is anyone presumptuous enough to seriously suggest Australia will qualify for the 1970 finals in Mexico?

Our immediate objective is to qualify, not partake in the splendors of Mexico.

To achieve this, we must win the Asian group, in which Australia will probably be included.

To be quite frank, should North Korea also be included in this group, our hopes will all but vanish.

TRAINING FORM

The Koreans are on a different plane altogether from Australia and other Asian countries.

But even without the North Koreans to contend with, Australia would not be that good a thing to reach the 1970 finals.

At best, if our team is at long last prepared sanely, we would only be one of three or four countries with equal chances.

Australia is no good bet to finish ahead of Japan, Burma, Israel (which may be included in the Asian group this time) or Iran.

So please, let's cut out all this talk about the 1970 World Cup finals.

What we should be concerned about primarily are the elimination matches we will be called on to play at the end of next year.

And to successfully achieve this target, only some 12 months away, we cannot afford to gamble on young, untried players.

Especially not players whose only criteria, according to the selectors, is that they showed up well at training the three days the squad assembled in Sydney earlier this month.

The selectors justified some of their shock selections by stating that some interstate players were brilliant at training.

Australia, on painful past experience, should have no more illusions on training form.

I still vividly recall how brilliantly the Australians performed at training in Phnom-Penh the days preceding the first World Cup match against North Korea.

We looked far more impressive than the Koreans, who trained on the same ground the same days as the Aussies, and all Cambodia was tipping an Australian win.

What happened in actual match-play is now history...

● ABOUT THE CONCEPT:

Those in the know have been ignored

— By PAUL DEAN —

After all these years, we still can't tackle our tour preparations intelligently and professionally.

Somewhere along the line, the wrong man gets "elected" for the wrong job — and from then on the blunders never cease.

The basic mistake obviously is that the ASF executive regards tour appointments as plums with which people either have to be rewarded or forced to shut up.

In either case, the implications of a tour managerial post are not properly weighed.

The Australian team will be under the care of two officials, one from Melbourne and one from Adelaide.

As far as we know, neither has taken any sort of a team on tour in the past, especially not to Asia.

What they do know of Asian conditions and our opponents can probably be summed up in a few casual words.

Don't we have any officials with first hand knowledge of Asian conditions?

Of course we do. But the ASF has ingeniously ignored them.

We have Bayutti and Brusasco, who took the team to Asia in 1965 and now we have Re, from Perth, who recently arranged Western Australia's highly successful Merdeka participation and led his team to Malaysia.

Not one of these three have been considered — or even properly consulted.

The same with the coaching position which is now filled by Sydney's respected and successful Joe Vlasits who, however, knows little of either Asia or Asian soccer.

But we do have a Jelisavcic who went with the team in 1965 and we do have a State coach in Perth who recently went to the Merdeka.

Both have been ignored and neither has been asked to submit a detailed report to assist Vlasits.

If we were doing things intelligently, we should have sent Vlasits off to the Merdeka tournament to study our opponents and come back with first hand knowledge.

But that was impossible. Why? Firstly, because at that time Vlasits had not been appointed and secondly, because, at that time, the ASF had not even heard about the very existence of the Saigon tournament.

Once again: doing things back to front...

But now that these opportunities have disappeared, did the ASF do the only remaining sensible thing and fly over to Sydney for a consultation the WIA State team's coach?

Did they ask him to pass on his knowledge to Vlasits and the others preparing our team?

Of course not. Let Vlasits find out the pitfalls himself — why make his job any easier?

But we can go even further. Our News Editor, Lou Gautier, can now claim to have more knowledge of Asian soccer than any ASF executive, past or present.

In 1965 he travelled with the team on its tour and last year he attended the Asian Games at Bangkok.

While there, he saw nearly all the teams that will now face Australia in Saigon.

Gautier's trips have not been undertaken in secrecy; any ASF executive who can read must have seen his reports and summaries in this newspaper.

Has he been asked for his help and opinion by the ASF? Of course not.

To put it in a nutshell — nut is a fitting word — the ASF has once again decided to arrange the tour "in the blind."

As if they were allergic to learning from past mistakes, they are determined to keep repeating them ad nauseam.

Whether the ASF admits it or not, the truth is that Australia will go to Saigon very poorly prepared.

If there had been no precedent to follow, perhaps they could be forgiven for their blunders.

But not so after the 1965 tour and WA's Merdeka trip of this year.

If the team fails in Saigon, ALL the blame will be laid at the feet of the ASF.

● ABOUT THE PLANS: SAIGON SAVED US LOSS OF FACE

The Australian national team is fast running out of opponents on its Asian tour next month.

Hot on the heels of the cancellation of the two matches against Thailand at Bangkok, Indonesia have now called off the two internationals, set down for Djakarta on December 1 and 3.

In a statement to the Australian Associated Press from Djakarta, Indonesian FA secretary, Sutardi, said that due to rain (?) and financial difficulties, Indonesia regretted it was not able to receive Australia for the time being.

The cancellation of the internationals in Bangkok and Djakarta means that after the Saigon Tournament, Australia will only play twice in Singapore, on November 22 and 29, and in Kuala Lumpur, on November 25.

In other words, the sum total of the Australian Federation's tour arrangements, after eight months

of "planning," is three matches.

The ASF can take no credit for the Saigon Tournament.

No spadework was required from them as they received an invitation from the South Vietnamese Government, via Canberra, to participate with all traveling and living expenses paid.

It is now quite evident that without the invitation to Saigon there would have been no Asian tour this year.

South Vietnam's invitation has proved to be a God-send, a face-saver for the ASF, who would have been left high and dry otherwise.

For the past year we have been hearing ad nauseam about grandiose plans for a tour by the Australian team.

First the tour was to have encompassed almost

half the world, places like the USSR, Italy, Britain and Sweden.

We were assured all these countries were keen to invite Australia when ASF officials returned from the 1966 World Cup in England.

Some months later, plans for a European tour were quietly dropped, and Iran, Israel, India, Pakistan were mentioned.

At a later date — only a few months back — these, too, were discarded, and statements were issued to the effect that dates for matches in Japan, Hong Kong, Formosa, Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea had almost been finalised.

These, predictably, went by the board, and so now the Australian team is all but left with the Saigon Tournament, which the ASF took no part in arranging.

— Lou Gautier



FLOTTA LAURD